

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application with claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14-16 amended herein. No new matter is added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

In office action claims 2, 8, 9, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 2 and 8 and 9 have been amended herein to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

On the merits, claims 1-11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 11-196081 published on (July 21, 1999) to Anzai. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai in view of US Patent 7,024,553 to Morimoto. Claims 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai. These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a decryption unit decrypting an encrypted data with any one of the most-updated encryption key and the one-generation-anterior encryption key which are set by the second setting unit. It is respectfully submitted that Anzai does not teach such a feature.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Anzai and is allowable. Claims 2-13 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

With respect to independent claims 14-16 they have been amended to recite similar decryption units as claim 1 and are therefore similarly allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the instant claims is requested.

In Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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